

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 146

(Chair, Health and Government Operations
Committee)(By Request - Departmental - Aging)

Health and Government Operations

Finance

**Secretary of Aging - Administration of Commodity Supplemental Food Program
and Regulatory Authority**

This departmental bill codifies existing practice by specifically authorizing the Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA) to administer the federally funded Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). The bill also authorizes the Secretary of Aging to adopt regulations to carry out the provisions of law that are within the Secretary's jurisdiction.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill primarily codifies existing practice related to administering CSFP. Thus, State finances and operations are not materially affected. MDOA can adopt any additional regulations with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: MDOA has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). The Department of Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: The Secretary of Aging is specifically required to administer the programs and activities that the federal government delegates to the State, under the Older Americans Act of 1965, that are not otherwise committed by law to another unit of State government. MDOA advises that, while most federally funded programs under its

jurisdiction are authorized by the Older Americans Act, the department also administers CSFP and likely requires specific authority to do so. The bill provides clear authorization for MDOA to accept and use federal funds to administer CSFP. MDOA further advises that it has received funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) since 2015 to provide supplemental food to low-income older adults.

Generally, the Secretary is specifically authorized to adopt regulations to implement each program under the Secretary's jurisdiction.

Federal Commodity Supplemental Food Program

CSFP is designed to improve the health of low-income elderly persons at least 60 years of age by supplementing their diets with USDA foods. Through CSFP, USDA distributes both food and administrative funds to participating states and Indian tribal organizations. In addition to low-income elderly people, several other groups (pregnant and breastfeeding women, other new mothers up to one-year postpartum, infants, and children up to age six) that have participated in the program are currently being phased out. CSFP food packages are not designed to provide a complete diet but rather are intended to be a source of the nutrients typically lacking in the diets of the target population.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Aging; U.S. Department of Agriculture; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 26, 2017
mm/ljm Third Reader - February 21, 2017

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ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: Commodity Supplemental Food Program

BILL NUMBER: HB 146

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PART A. ECONOMIC IMPACT RATING

This agency estimates that the proposed bill:

WILL HAVE MINIMAL OR NO ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL
BUSINESS

OR

WILL HAVE MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL
BUSINESSES

PART B. ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

Bill authorizes the Department to administer a federal grant to support senior nutrition. There is no meaningful impact on small businesses.